Vocational Education Programmes

*397. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve industrial houses to finance vocational education programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any progress has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d). The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, inter alia, envisages that the establishment of vocational courses or institutions will be the responsibility of the Government as well as employers in the public and private sectors.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was started with effect from February, 1988, under which substantial financial assistance is provided to States/Union territories for running vocational courses at the +2 level. Upto the end of 1990-91, 10,316 vocational sections have been approved in 27 States/UTs.

No scheme has been evolved so far for involvement of public and private sectors to finance vocational education programme. However, job linked vocational courses have been started in General Insurance and Life Insurance in collaboration with General Insurance Corporation and Life Insurance Corporation in some schools. A course for Railway Commercial Staff, some para medical courses and vocational courses in the handicrafts sector are being started during the academic session 1991-92. Efforts are continuing to establish links with other Departments/Organisations.

Efforts are also being made to forge linkages with industry for creating/enhancing avenues of employment for the vocational passouts.

Literacy Rate in Chandigarh

*398. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present literacy rate in Chandigarh;

(b) whether the position of the Union Territory of Chandigarh has fallen from 2nd to 3rd place amongst the Union Territories as regards the literacy rate; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to promote literacy in the Union Territory of Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to the provisional figures of 1991 census, literacy rate for the population aged 7 years and above in the Union Territory of Chandigarh was 78.73%.

(b) According to 1981 census the Union Territory of Chandigarh ranked first amongst the Union Territories with regard to the literacy rate. Even though the literacy rate in the Union Territory in the last decade has increased from 74.81% to 78.73%, it now ranks second, amongst the Union Territories, the first being Lakshadweep with literacy rate of 79.23 percent.

(c) The U.T. Administration has chalked out a programme for achieving total literacy in as short a period as possible. The Central

Government would provide financial assistance according to the prescribed pattern if such assistance is sought.

Backward Communities in SC/ST Lists

*399. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include backward communities in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes lists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has recommended the inclusion of any backward community in these lists: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d). Any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an Act of Parliament as laid down in Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

The details of proposals received cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

[*Translation*]

Foeticide Cases

*400. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the recent cases of foeticide in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this evil practice;

(c) the names of clinics in the country which perform amniocentesis tests;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban such tests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (e). The Government are aware of the misuse of the pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to cases of female foeticide in different parts of the country.

A Central legislation to regulate prenatal diagnostic techniques and to ban the misuse thereof for determination of the sex of the foetus, is under active consideration.

Information relating to clinics performing amniocentesis tests is not being monitored by the Government of India as there is no Central Law regulating such tests.

[*English*]

Resources For Housing Needs

*401 SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the resources required per annum for meeting the housing needs of the country by the end of this century; and

(b) the details of fiscal and other incentives the Government propose to provide for land development and housing?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). The Working Group for the VIII Five